

September 30, 2008

ETHICS MATTERS

Thank you to all who joined us last Friday for our Ethics Matters conference. Your participation, and the participation of your agency personnel, made the event the success it was. Friday was truly a full ethics day, with morning civics programming for middle school children, a full hour on Connecticut Public Radio's "Where We Live" devoted to ethics, and the afternoon event featuring the Governor M. Jodi Rell, Professor Paula Franzese, and four substantive breakout sessions. As was often noted throughout the event, government ethics matters each and every day, and we thank you for being leaders in this movement.

ETHICS TRAINING

A comprehensive training on the Code of Ethics for Public Officials and State Employees is available to all via Web-streaming video. The link can be accessed from the [OSE's Web site](#), and we encourage all of you to make use of this updated tool. This same content is available on DVD. All previously-received requests for DVDs will be fulfilled this week. Please call or e-mail me if you would like a copy.

NEW LAW TAKES EFFECT OCTOBER 1

Public Act 08-03 takes effect this Wednesday, October 1. The full text of the Act is available on our [Web site](#). Among other things, the new law:

- Provides for pension revocation for public officials and government employees who violate certain criminal statutes such as embezzlement or bribery;
- Makes failure to report a bribe a crime;
- Adds the spouse of the Governor to the list of Public Officials in the Code of Ethics;
- Prohibits the Chiefs of Staff of the Governor, Lt. Governor, other elected officials and legislative caucuses from soliciting campaign contributions;
- Limits the gift exception for major life events to \$1,000;
- Prohibits any party to certain state contracts valued over \$50,000 from employing a public employee who participated in or supervised the negotiation of the contract for one year; and
- Requires mandatory training on the Code of Ethics for newly-elected legislators.

OSE REGULATIONS – PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Proposed amendments to the OSE's regulations are available for public notice and comment until October 23, 2008. The amendments are being proposed by the OSE in response to the newly passed laws, comments from the regulated community, and with the objective to enhance existing provisions.

View [Proposed Amendments to Agency Regulations](#).

Comments regarding these regulations must be in writing and must be received by the OSE by the end of the business day on October 23, 2008. Please direct your comments to: Barbara Housen, General Counsel, Office of State Ethics, 18-20 Trinity Street, Suite 205, Hartford, CT 06106-1660.

Best regards,

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